

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. New claims 12 and 13 have been added. Claims 1-13 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (KR 2002-0012368) (hereinafter "Kim").

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Mamiya et al. (US 2004/0172985) (hereinafter "Mamiya").

Claims 1-6

Amended claim 1 recites: "...a detergent feeder connected to the colloidal silver maker to receive the colloidal silver-containing wash water from the colloidal silver maker and feed the colloidal silver-containing wash water to the washing tub, the detergent feeder having a body opened at a front thereof and a detergent container sliding through the open front of the body; and an outlet pipe provided at a side of the colloidal silver maker to feed the colloidal silver-containing wash water from the colloidal silver maker to the detergent feeder, the outlet pipe being disposed between the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder and integrally formed with the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder so that the colloidal silver-containing wash water produced from the colloidal silver maker is supplied to the washing tub through the detergent feeder." Support for this amendment may be found in at least Figure 2 of the present application.

The Office Action relies on Kim to show these features of claim 1 and specifically relies on the sterilizing water supplier 30 shown in Figures 2 and 3 of Kim.

Kim discusses a washing machine which contains a storage tank 31 connected to an inlet 35 connected to a water supplying valve. The storage tank 31 includes an outlet 37 directing water in the storage tank 31 toward a washing tub. A pair of silver rods 33, 34 is installed inside the storage tank 31 to make sterilizing water through electrolysis. An inflow valve 36 to isolate the inlet at the full level of water in the storage tank and a discharging valve 40 to supply the sterilizing water to the washing tub by opening and closing the outlet are also provided. By spraying the sterilizing water to the laundry, the laundry is sterilized.

In particular, Kim discloses a detergent feeder and a colloidal silver maker connected in parallel. In contrast to Kim, claim 1 recites a structure of connecting a colloidal silver maker and a detergent feeder in series to thereby mix the colloidal silver-containing wash water with a detergent and then supplying it to a washing tub.

As shown above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify aspects of the present invention as recited in claim 1 which structurally patentably distinguish over Kim.

Claim 1 recites a detergent feeder connected to the colloidal silver maker to receive the colloidal silver-containing wash water from the colloidal silver maker and feed the colloidal silver-containing wash water to the washing tub, the detergent feeder having a body opened at a front thereof and a detergent container sliding through the open front of the body.

As shown above, the structure recited in claim 1 provides that an outlet pipe of the colloidal silver maker, which introduces wash water into the detergent feeder, is integrally connected to the detergent feeder, so that it is unnecessary to further connect the outlet pipe to the detergent feeder, thus preventing the wash water from leaking through the outlet pipe due to a water pressure of the wash water or repeated use of the washing machine.

These technical features of claim 1 further provide that the apparatus of claim 1 has reduced assembling costs and life of the washing machine due to the structure recited in claim 1, which are technical advantages not realized by Kim or the secondary reference, Mamiya.

Claims 2-6 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason. Further, claims 2-6 recite features that patentably distinguish over the relied upon references, taken alone or in combination.

For example, claim 3 recites that the colloidal silver maker comprises a silver ion casing to define a water passage through which wash water passes and a pair of silver plates placed in the water passage of the silver ion casing to generate silver ions.

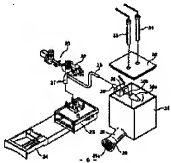
In contrast to claim 3, in Kim the storage tank 31 does not define a passage as recited in claim 3. Specifically, the storage tank 31 of Kim is what the name implies, a tank. Kim specifically notes that the apparatus of Kim requires an inflow valve 36 to **isolate the inlet at the full level of water in the storage tank** and a discharging valve 40 to supply the sterilizing water to the washing tub by opening and closing the outlet.

In further contrast to claim 3, it is respectfully submitted that the pair of silver rods 33, 34 installed inside the storage tank 31 do not obviate the pair of silver plates placed in the water passage of the silver ion casing to generate silver ions, the pair of silver plates being arranged in

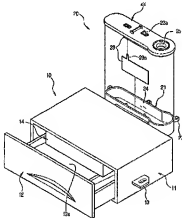
parallel to a flowing direction of the wash water. First, it is respectfully submitted that the silver rods 33, 34 of Kim are not "structural equivalents" to the silver plates recited in claim 3 because a plate and a rod have different structures.

To emphasize these structural differences between claim 3 and Kim, the Examiner is respectfully invited to compare Figure 2 of Kim with Figure 2 of the present application.

[Figure 2 of Kim]



[Figure 2 of present application]



Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

Claims 7-11

Claim 7 recites: "...a connection pipe to integrally connect a lower end of a predetermined portion of the colloidal silver maker to an upper end of a corresponding portion of the detergent feeder so that the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder are integrated with each other, the colloidal silver being fed from the colloidal silver maker through the connection pipe to an upper portion of the detergent feeder."

Similar to the argument for claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 recites

features including that the colloidal silver is fed from the colloidal silver maker through the connection pipe to an upper portion of the detergent feeder which structurally patentably distinguish over Kim.

Claims 8-11 depend on claim 7 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 12 and 13 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention.

New claim 12 recites that the detergent feeder receives water only through the colloidal silver maker. New claim 13 recites that the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder are disposed at an upper portion of the washing machine.

New claims 12 and 13 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

No new matter has been added, and entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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